Oathall Community College
Sustainable Development Policy

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Version number	Date Approved	Change/Reasons for Change/Comments
1	2009	New policy.
2	2016	Revised and shortened. Updated in line with newer DFE guidance.
3	2020	Content unchanged since last review.

Distribution list
Governors
Headteacher
Leadership Team

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Oathall Community College recognises that the whole school operation inevitably has an effect on the local, regional and global environment. We know that it is important that **everyone** in our college community is aware of and understands the effect that their actions have upon the environment. Consequently, the college is committed to minimising the impact that its day-to-day operations have on the environment, whenever and wherever that is possible.

The college also recognises that it has a duty to educate and prepare its students with the knowledge and skills to appreciate their environment, understand how their behaviours affect it and to develop the skills necessary to manage resources in a sustainable way.

The college mission to '**Respect, Aspire, Achieve, Enjoy,'** will underpin our college ethos and attitude towards the environment. In all of our day-to-day activities the established principles of **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle** will be encouraged.

This policy covers the following key areas of the school operation:

Food and Drink
As a Healthy School we are aware of the links between healthy eating, student and staff health, improved concentration and learning.

We will
- Work with our school catering team, students, staff and parents to encourage healthy eating in the college and at home.
- Where possible use local suppliers and fresh ingredients in our food production
- Comply with the School Food Plan and other legislation regulating catering practices.

Travel and Traffic
We are aware that travel to and from college by students and staff contributes to traffic congestion in the neighbourhood, that vehicles pollute the environment and that motor vehicles contribute to carbon emissions. We also recognise that sustainable travel methods improve fitness and health.

We will
- Encourage the use of walking, cycling, bus and car sharing for journeys to school
- Work with the local authority, local primary schools and the police in promoting road safety.
- Commit ourselves to reducing the number of car journeys undertaken

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Buildings and Grounds

The college has a variety of buildings old and new; managing these sustainably is challenging. We recognise that our school grounds and buildings are a valuable resource aesthetically and for the purposes of teaching. They also provide habitats for a range of plants and animals and as such need to be treated sensitively.

We will

- Design new buildings and building modifications using the latest sustainable technologies where it is cost effective to do so.
- Provide pleasing and sufficient outdoor spaces for teaching purposes and for student recreation.
- Encourage students to respect their outdoor spaces and be aware that the appearance of these spaces leaves visitors with an impression of the college.
- Ensure that the college farm manages their land and stock responsibly, following organic principles.

Energy and Water

The college has an ever increasing demand for energy. Our older building stock is fuel inefficient and places a considerable burden on the college financially. We recognise that by tackling energy and water conservation we can improve our sustainability and save the college money.

We will

- Make everyone in the college community aware of the link between energy use and financial cost.
- Monitor electricity consumption using STARK
- Regularly monitor energy and water consumption and investigate any large variances
- Include energy saving features in any building refurbishments (such as insulation, double glazing etc)
- Raise awareness of low-cost energy saving measures and actions that actively reduce the consumption of energy.

Purchasing and waste

We know that the college operation generates a significant amount of waste. In particular traditional teaching methods and everyday school administration relies heavily on the need to produce paper documentation. We also recognise that the throw-away culture of today contributes to the proliferation of waste. By addressing this aspect of school operation we can reduce costs and promote sustainable consumption.

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We will
- Encourage recycling and the use of recycled materials wherever possible
- Encourage actions that actively reduce the consumption of materials such as only printing when necessary and using double-sided printing.
- Through reusing or recycling, reduce and minimise waste in all of our operations
- Reuse and repair electrical items and other equipment whenever it is cost effective to do so.
- Dispose of old equipment in an ethically and environmentally responsible way
- Promote the use of digital technology to reduce the dominance of paper documents.
- Use goods and services from suppliers that have good ethical and sustainable standards; where possible these should be local to the college.

Inclusion and participation
The college already fosters a strong sense of community amongst students. We recognise that we do not operate in isolation and enthusiastically reach out and engage with the local community in a range of areas. Participation is strong in school activities. Staff and parents give their time voluntarily to assist with running activities and supporting the work of the school.

We will
- In our practices, policies, buildings and environment we will promote an approach that welcomes and respects everyone irrespective of background, culture, age, religion or ability.
- Deliver the messages of community, social inclusion, equality and diversity through the curriculum and through whole school channels such as assemblies, student council and other committees where students are represented.
- Where appropriate we will work with partner schools and community groups in the locality on issues of sustainability
- Provide occasions and events where local people can see and support our sustainable work such as College and Farm open days.
- Work with organisations and businesses that help students to learn about the environment and sustainable approaches